

JACADS
Summer 2003

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Johnston Island Wildlife Refuge will continue to thrive after JACADS closure

On Nov. 29, 2000, the U.S. Army completed safely destroying the last of more than 410,000 deadly chemical weapons stored on isolated Johnston Atoll, approximately 800 miles southwest of Hawaii. Throughout the United States' work on the atoll, the protection of natural resources and wildlife has been paramount. The atoll is home to 32 species of coral, 315 species of fish, and 20 native and migratory species of birds in its federally protected National Wildlife Refuge.

In 1985 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set environmental regulations to guarantee the safety of every species on the island. Throughout the 10 years of weapons disposal, the regulations and laws required the Army to conduct extensive tests on Johnston Island's indoor/outdoor air, surface soils, surface water, subsurface water, groundwater and sediment for toxic chemical contamination.

With EPA and other regulatory organizations' oversight, the Army safely destroyed more than 400 million pounds of chemical agent while protecting the workers, wildlife and environment. To further ensure the safety of wildlife around the disposal facility known as Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS), several scientific research projects were implemented to determine the impact of chemical weapons disposal on the island's marine and wildlife ecosystems.



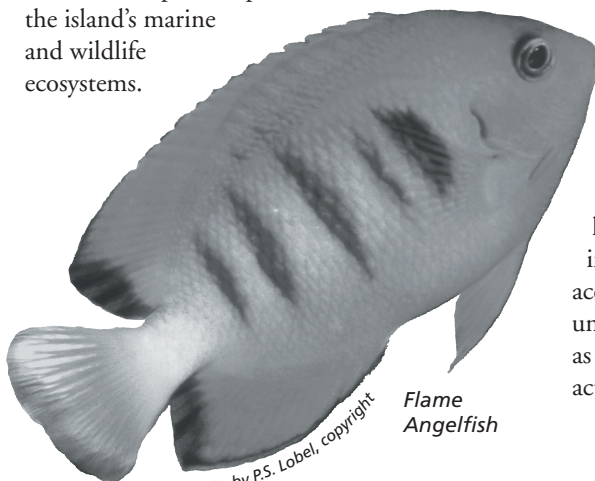
Great Frigatebirds

Research studies by Dr. Elizabeth A. Schreiber of the Ornithological Council and Dr. Phillip Lobel of the Boston University Marine Program have provided in-depth analysis on seabird and marine life surrounding JACADS.

"The wildlife refuge is in excellent shape. We monitored bird population, nest success, survival of adults from year to year, chicks up until breeding age, egg size and adult weight," Schreiber said. "We also did a comparison of birds within the vicinity of smoke stacks or birds that could be exposed to any possible leaks, with birds outside that area and found no difference in health or behavior."

Schreiber also reported that many bird populations on the island increased through the years, and expressed optimism about the future of the wildlife refuge.

Lobel's study involved research specific to marine life around Johnston Island. His techniques involved gathering information through fish acoustics during courting and breeding, monitoring underwater radiation levels and using fish embryos as a biological indicator of the effects of island activities. These studies cover all oceanographic and



*Flame
Angelfish*
Photo by P.S. Lobel, copyright



**Chemical Materials Agency
(Provisional)**

www.cma.army.mil

see Wildlife, page 3

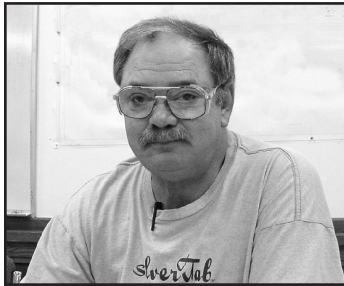
JACADS reflections

JACADS closing raises many emotions and thoughts. For some, JACADS has been home for many years. To all JACADS personnel, regardless of where you go or what you do after JACADS, **thank you** for making the world a better and safer place.

What are your thoughts and feelings about JACADS closing?

"I feel kind of sad to see the plant being torn down. However, I also feel pleased to have played a part in history being made."

— Bill Pelfrey, JACADS
Decommissioning Superintendent



"WE DONE GOOD!"

—Karin Demko,
Associate Human
Relations Specialist

"All Americans should be proud of the role of the JACADS facility."

—Maha Aziz,
Environmental Engineer



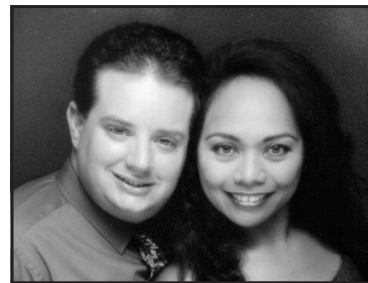
What's your favorite memory of JACADS?



"All my favorite memories of JACADS are in some way associated with the beautiful, blue-green, warm water. Whenever swimming with the eagle rays, or manta rays, or beautiful little fishes dancing in the water, I've felt like I'm living in a National Geographic special."

—Patricia Brambila, Operations Administrator

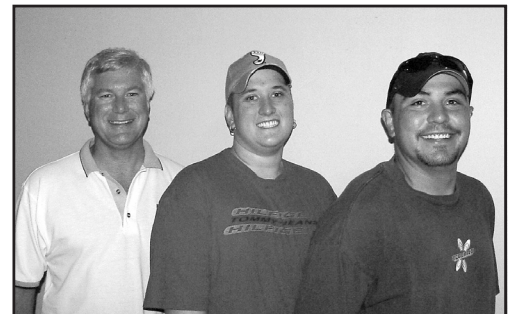
"...we met each other on JI. So, in a way, we have become each other's favorite JACADS memories."



—Ric Cornel &
Charmaine
Hackbarth,
Chemical
Support Facility
Administrator
and JACADS
WDC Paymaster,
respectively

"My sister Brenda and niece Angela visiting for a few days. ...Upon approaching JI, my sister said, 'We are going to land on the postcard' (not without emotion). She has carried the postcard in her daily travels from the day I gave it to her."

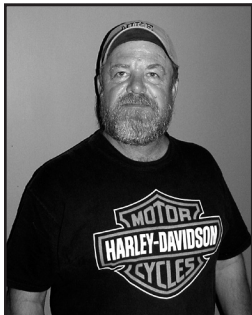
—Jeanne K. Matott,
Area Supervisor



"When my wife, Laura, visited Johnston Island in May 2003, we brought the whole family together. This was a very special occasion for all of us."

—Jim Salmon, JACADS Decommissioning
Support Manager (with his two sons Travis and
Grant who also work at JACADS)

What will you do once you leave JACADS?



"I plan to get re-acquainted with family members on a full-time basis. Then I plan to attend a 20-week Harley-Davidson motorcycle maintenance course in Daytona, Florida. A fellow JACADS employee and I hope to open up our own motorcycle repair shop."

—Bill Morrill, Technical Support System Specialist



"I have recently been reassigned from Johnston Island to San Francisco as closure engineer on the team that is preparing to build and operate the Pueblo Chemical Agent Pilot Plant."

—Kerry Rod, Closure Engineer

"We are transferring to the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Arkansas, where we will be continuing our adventure in "better living through chemistry." And, we are going to raise some baby bears!"

—Dawn & Paul Barrera
Information Systems
Department Analyst
and Air Monitoring Lab
Manager, respectively



"My brand new home [in Florida] has been sitting empty for 2 years and I am looking forward to decorating it..."

—Roseanne
M. Sherman,
Production
Controls Engineer



Special thanks to H. Ward Maynard for his assistance in collecting the thoughts of and photographing his co-workers.

Wildlife refuge will continue to thrive

Wildlife, from front page

environmental parameters. This includes research on weather, water current, water quality, tide level and all types of fish and coral surrounding the island.

"The JACADS project is without question a complete success," said Lobel. "The reason the Army had so much success was because they spared no expense throughout the whole project. The Army facilities were all top-of-the-line and followed every possible safety precaution to ensure the continued growth of the National Wildlife Refuge."

Lobel believes that the Department of Defense (DoD) played a major role in protecting the National Wildlife Refuge at Johnston Island because, while the island is under DoD ownership, the water surrounding it is off limits to commercial fishermen.

According to Lobel and Schreiber, the marine life and seabird populations will continue to

flourish. They said that JACADS is an environmental success and serves as the standard by which all chemical weapons disposal facilities should operate.

Lobel will be filming a documentary with National Geographic on shark migratory patterns at Johnston Atoll. The documentary is due to air next year.

Schreiber is scheduled to return to Johnston Atoll this year to continue her research.



Red-footed Booby

For more information on Schreiber's and Lobel's work, visit the following web sites:

Elizabeth A. Schreiber
<http://nmnhwww.si.edu/vert/birds/eas.html>

Phil Lobel
www.mbl.edu/research/resident/lab_lobel.html
www.bu.edu/bump/bios/lobel.shtml

JOIN US!

U.S. Army Holding FINAL Public Information Session on JACADS Closure

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional) will host a public information session on the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS).

Where:

East-West Center of Hawaii
Pumehana Room, 1777 East West Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96848
(808)944-7159

When:

Thursday
July 24, 2003
7:30 p.m.

This will be the last public information session for JACADS as its mission is finished and the facility is permanently closing later this year. Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System Project Manager Gary McCloskey will answer questions and discuss:

- JACADS accomplishments
- Environmental aspects of closure
- JACADS closure status
- Future uses of the island/atoll



For more information call
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